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THE SIMPLER AGE OF MILLINERY.

FEWER ASPIRANTS.

Zeal Finding Scope in Simpler Frocks.

There are not as many millinery classes held in the evening schools of the country as there used to be.

At Horsforth, recently, it was pointed out that over 50 girls had passed dressmaking classes but that only three had entered for millinery, and a "Yorkshire Evening Post" reporter finds that whereas in Leeds at one time there was no lack of difficulty in coping with all who wished to learn millinery, there has since been a substantial change, and that dressmaking classes now outnumber millinery classes by two to one.

Commenting on these things, a correspondent who has had many years' experience both in the millinery business and in teaching evening classes, puts the change down to the fact that "millinery is a trade in which one is always learning new things, and therefore, as the millinery of today is vastly different from what it was even ten years ago, it is an essential point that the obsolete and antiquated methods of theoretical and pattern draughting millinery be abolished, and each class put in charge of an up-to-date practical milliner."

Given these things, argues the correspondent, "we shall find these classes attended by an ever-increasing number of the modern girl, eager and interested to learn how to make for herself the smart and chic little hats that are the present day wear."

Those who are responsible for the arrangement of evening classes, however, do not quite agree with this reading of the signs.

The Block-Made Felt.

Practically the whole reason for the decline of millinery classes, they say, is the block-made felt, which needs only a buckle or a feather by way of trimming. The lob and the shingle brought this hat into being, and the elaborate head creation went out with long hair.

In the heyday of millinery classes, hats were largely made on wire foundations covered with material, and then decorated with a variety of falbala and trimmings. Or they were made from a straw shape, or they were made from strips of straw material which could be cut and twisted and built up into the shape required, and then covered and trimmed.

Furthermore, practically all hats then could be taken down and made up again, producing practically a different hat from the same material, with such additions and subtractions as slightly changing fashions might impose.

Hat-making and hat-renovating tea parties were frequent in many suburban homes.

But now, the block-made felt or the close-fitting straw are almost the only wear. Furthermore, while it is always possible to pay astonishing prices for hats, the working-class today can get astonishingly cheap hats, and can afford two or three new hats a year, instead of having to refashion an old one several times.

Old Days Gone.

There is still some hat reconstruction and hat trimming done, and among the people who attend millinery classes are mothers or families, who must learn how to remodel, restrim, or actually make hats in which their little girls can go to school.

But the old days of foundations, coverings and trimmings, with an architectural design and a massive superstructure, have gone, until fashion changes again and brings in big and elaborate hats once more.

Something of the reverse process is seen in regard to dressmaking. When bulk hats and flat ones are generally worn, it was dressmaking classes that were poorly attended. Women might cope with the millinery of that day, but not with the dressmaking, or, at least, not the better part of it. That was more a matter for the professional rather than the amateur. Now, with the simplification of both, it is more hats that are bought, and more dresses that are made.

Evening dressmaking classes are increasing in numbers, and more girls are making their own clothes today, or learning how to renovate and keep them in repair, than there used to be.

A NEW GRAMOPHONE INVENTION.

OUTSTANDING RECORDS OF A SCHUBERT QUINTET.

"Money talks." It is quite an old saying, but it has greater significance than ever since the gramophone industry became such an exciting field for inventive and business enterprise.

The choice of records has been further extended this week by the appearance in most shops of the first of the "Dominion" records. This new company has works at London equipped to produce eighteen million records a year, and has also acquired the rights for many countries, of a gramophone innovation called the "Phantom Orchestra."

This invention was demonstrated at a Press luncheon at the company's West End recording studio. I was not present, and can only give the description which has reached me. The invention, we are told, "is a method of electrically playing back a gramophone record over the same instruments which were used in the making of the records, thereby producing the natural characteristic effects and timbre of the instruments themselves. The orchestra may consist of six to sixty instruments, or more, and without any actual performers, will give the results of an orchestra of the same number being played by musicians."

New Schubert Records.

For the moment, however, I am more than content with the ordinary reproduction of some of the most delightful chamber music records that I have yet heard. They are of Schubert's famous "Trout" Piano Quintet, recorded for H.M.V. by Messrs. Backhaus (piano), Mangeot (violin), Howard (viola), Williams (cello), and Holiday (double bass).

In the opening bars the listener is at once entranced by the crystal clarity of the important pianoforte part, and the beauty of tone confirms the impression which I have had for some time that Backhaus is one of the best pianists, if not actually the best, for recording purposes. But all five play with perfect taste, and the serenity of the first two movements gives a sense of peace and an artistic satisfaction that are the highest tribute to the music and the performers.

LORD BIRKENHEAD AND HIS SUCCESSOR.

Lord Birkenhead (left), who has resigned from the Cabinet and given up official politics "once for all," to take up commercial responsibilities, and (right) Viscount Peel, his successor as Secretary of State for India.

"FLATS" FOR HENS.

Increasing "Housing Capacity" for Poultry.

There has been a big decrease in the number of entries in competition classes for the Dairy Show of 1928, which opens in Leeds next Tuesday.

One of the causes of this is that several classes have been deleted from the schedule, and others have had the number of entry fees been considerably tightened up. The organisers state that the lack of competitors submitted. But it is an open secret that one of the chief reasons is a complaint that the increase of a mere halfpenny (since Mr. W. H. Hall, Holmes poultry house, have been at our shows) and volume expanding a concession was forced to pay a big price for it. Mr. Hall has invented a house that contains two flats, and allows a 40 per cent. increased housing capacity at 25 per cent. above cost.

He is correct method of constructing dwellings for chickens, and perfect ventilation is guaranteed. It is lighted by three sets of windows, and is on wheels.

The section of the show is devoted to poultry and other small stock, and women are also a considerable holding work on farms.

TRAPPED SHEEP SHOT.

After being penned up in a lodge on Garforth's cliff, Blossom Featherstone, for about a week, a sheep was shot dead.

The man responsible was acting on the instructions of the owner of the sheep, as no one could secure the animal.

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A NEW GRAMOPHONE INVENTION.

The variations which follow rather break the spell, for their base not the charm of earlier movements; but the last records constitute an extremely fine achievement. Backhaus is also heard in two solos, a highly characteristic piece full of Spanish atmosphere by Albeniz, and a bright arrangement of Schubert's Military March in E flat, though this is rather commonplace beside his more spectacular March in D flat.

La Scala Orchestra.

H.M.V. have secured the exclusive recording services of La Scala Orchestra, Milan, and their first record of a new series comprises a delicately played "Song of the Nightingale," composed by Napravnik as part of the incidental music to Tolstoy's dramatic poem, "Don Juan," and a delightful trifle, the overture to Wolf Ferrari's "The Secret of Suvanna." Judging from the evidence, Susanna was a very frivolous young lady, but I should like to meet her.

There is another notable record from the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra of the Prelude to "Lohengrin." The strong tone ones more is very remarkable, but the utter efficiency of this wonderful orchestra is almost a drawback in interpreting an ethereal inspiration of this kind. There is just a suggestion that the clouds are forming two deep and sailing gently in column of route.

The Brunswick Company issue another record by the great pianist Godowsky, and if he does not attain the same amazing virtuosity as in "The Rustle of Spring" he could have made no more popular choice than Rubinstein's "Melody in F" and Chopin's waltz in C Sharp Minor.

Among Brunswick's vocal records, Chamlee, a French tenor, sings in the most approved sentimental style "I Hear but known" (Denza), and Leoncavallo's "Serenade Francais," which is very reminiscent of Pagliacci.

Two German songs by the distinguished baritone Heinrich Schlusnus, Hugo Wolf's "Epiphany" and Richard Strauss's "Serenade," may have only limited interest, but as an example of the art of singing a song and of clearness of diction the record is to be highly commended to music lovers and students. The accompanied violinist Albert Spalding has two attractive numbers in an arrangement of The Prize Song from "The Mastersingers" and the Chopin E Flat Nocturne. He tone is rather hard, but otherwise the record is very pleasing.

Dance Music.

Among Brunswick's usual well-diversified selection of dance records, I was particularly interested in two tunes by Ben Berle Woodoff's Orchestra. We have lately had a great deal about elderly dancers being driven off the floor by the pace of modern dance music, and this is well marked rhythm and pleasing tunes of the "Lazy Mississippi" suggest that an effort to entice back on the not quite so youthful dancers.

Paul Godkin's very capable orchestra makes an exceptionally bright and pleasing record of a Wedding Serenade and a Birthday Serenade, and Goodman's "Rhapsody in Blue" by Frank Black's Orchestra will please those who like their jazz treated on a symphonic scale.

H. G.

SPEED TRAP INFORMER FINED.

Arthur Green, insurance agent, of Chester Road, Old Trafford, who was charged to have informed against a police trap, was fined 20s. at Manchester.

Owing to complaints on the Wilbraham Road district of Chorlton a speed trap was set. The defendant, who was riding a motor-cycle, became aware of this and informed other motorists.

Mr. W. M. Beaumont, a Bath cow specialist, and much time examining a patient in his consulting room.

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WEDNESDAY, 24th October.
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SATURDAY, 27th October.
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Departure 10.0 a.m. 6/6 3/9

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With bookings for 4, 5 or 6 days. 9/-.

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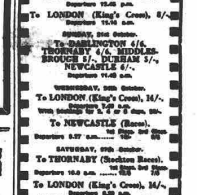

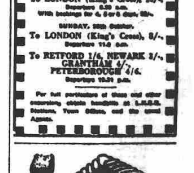

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